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COUNTRY Bulgaria

REPORT NO.

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TOPIC State Armament Plant in Kazanlik

EVALUATION 25X1

PLACE OBTAINED

DATE OF CONTENT March 1948

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REMARKS

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1. History and organization of the plant

a. Plant Designation: State War Factory Kazanlik.

b. The plant is a state-enterprise, self-administered. Until 9 September 1944 it was a military plant working exclusively for the armed forces. Since 1947 the plant has had a branch in Sopot with a gun department and a forge.

c. Management: Ivan Buzov, general manager, a Communist from Kazanlik.

d. Each production department of the plant has two military technical managers.

e. Training courses for military technicians.

Two-year technical courses are held in the plant to train the necessary number of leading technical personnel. Graduation from a technical college is conditional to the participation in such a course. The participants learn the operation of all production departments. The course is completed by an examination the result of which decides on the further assignment of the participant. The most successful students remain in the plant and the others assigned to the armed forces as chiefs of ordnance depots.

2. Plant Layout and Installations:

a. Layout sketch of the plant is annexed.

b. Location: about 3 km south of Kazanlik. The plant

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borders to the Karlovo-Pliven railroad line on the north, the Tundscha river on the south and the Cherganovo - Kazanlik highway on the west. The plant area is surrounded by a hedge.

b. plant area and installations:

(1) The plant covers about 2,000x300 meters without the explosives factory in the southwestern corner. It is the largest armament plant in Bulgaria.

(2) plant installations:

(a) Artillery department

(b) Department for small arms

(c) Ammunition department

(d) Optical department

(e) Chemical warfare agent defence department (gazn'shs)

(f) Explosives factory

(3) buildings and other installations (see layout sketch; numbers correspond to numbers of sketch)

1. Factory administration
2. Tool workshop ('instrumentalen rabotilaitza')
3. Tool depot
4. Ammunition department
5. Small arms department
6. Firing range for testing the muzzle velocity (natschalnata skorost) and the cyclic rate (skorostrelnost) of weapons and ammunition.
7. Storeroom for fuzes (zapaliki)
8. Storeroom for miscellaneous material
9. Gun department (snarjadno odelenji)
10. Power storage center and steam heating center for the supply of the entire plant.
11. Forge
12. Artillery department (gun workshop)
13. Gatekeeper's house (checking of workmen)
14. Optical workshop
15. Chemical warfare agent defence department
16. Barracks
17. Canteen for workers and clerks
18. Athletic grounds
19. Swimming pool
20. Beach with bathing boxes
21. Kazanlik railroad station
22. Powder factory (underground)
23. Field road to Kazanlik

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(4) Commuter railroad traffic from the Kazanlik railroad station to the workshops and explosive factory.

c. Machine equipment:

(1) The departments are equipped with modern, mostly German, machinery.

(2) In 1936 and 1937 the Small Arms Department was equipped with milling machines, lathes, presses and other special machinery of German origin, (Loewe make).

3. Production of the Plant

a. Production of war material

(1) Repair of all weapons of the Bulgarian Armed Forces

(2) Repair of optical instruments of the Bulgarian Armed Forces

(3) Production of artillery ammunition

(4) Production of small arms ammunition. Daily output about 180,000 cartridges

(5) Production of barrels for "Manlicher" rifles. Monthly output about 600 to 800 barrels. For the present only barrels are produced to replace old, unserviceable ones.

(6) Production of machine gun barrels (Madsen machine gun model). Monthly output about 40 to 60 barrels. Barrels are only produced for repair work.

(7) Production of gas masks. Amount unknown.

b. Production for civilian requirements.

(1) Fuel and water pumps for motor drive

(2) Agricultural machines and implements.

c. Work Force: about 3,000 (explosives factory not included)

d. Power supply: Power is supplied by a plant-owned power station.

4. Data on the Utilized Explosives Factory:

a. The workshops and depots are underground. Trees were planted to camouflage these installations against air reconnaissance.

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b. Production: all kinds of explosives are produced.

5. Security

a. Plant militia. The plant militia consists of secret members. It is under the immediate control of the general manager. The personnel of the plant militia consisted of former reserve officers up to 9 September 1944.

b. A high hedge surrounding the plant prevents ground observation. However, there is no camouflage against air reconnaissance except in the explosives factory.

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comment:

a. Information on the Lopot branch of the reported armament plant (para 1,b) was supplied in a previous report. However according to the earlier report there is an ammunition factory in Lopot, but no gun department.

b. The former "Caproni" aircraft factory is still in Kazanlik. Apart from some aircraft repairs it is mainly assigned to the production of agricultural machines or the repair of tractors.

1 annex: State armament plant in Kazanlik

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